

Washington, March 8. 1853

My Dear Sir.

I worked very assiduously to get an appropriation for publishing the descriptions of the plants, animals, &c brought home by me from the boundary line, but I am sorry to say that I did not succeed. This was owing to the great press of business, which, at the end of a short session of Congress, crowds out much that there would be a disposition to do if there were time. My friends in the Senate however assure me they will have it done next session, and of this I have no reason to doubt. The only way under the circumstances, therefore, will be to go on publishing the brief descriptions in the proper scientific journals, so as to secure original discovery and



authorship, and defer the plates until we can obtain the appropriation next session. I would have no authority to incur the expense of the drawings or plates until the appropriation is made.

I have lately received an order from the Secretary of War directing me to make my reports on all subjects of natural history &c. to the Sec. of the Interior, and to hold the collections subject to his control.

This will be an agreeable position for me under the present circumstances, & I have no doubt the Honble Robert McClelland, the present Sec. of the Interior will approve of every thing as it now stands. Should any application be made to you, therefore, in regard to the custody of the collection, please do

me the favor to refer it to me.

With great regard,

I remain, yours very truly

J. D. Graham

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127  
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